

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04960 221255Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 SAM-01 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SIL-01 LAB-04

OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /081 W
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O P 221205Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7943

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AS PRIORITY

INFO DIA WASHDC

CSUSAF WASHDC

MACSCOTT AFB ILL

SECDEF WASHDC

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4960

COMUSFORAZ FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, MARR, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE POSITION ON LABOR ISSUE AT AZORES
BASE

REF: (A) LISBON 3688 (DTG 011147Z JUN 76) (NOTAL),
LISBON 4763 (DTG 151206Z JUL 76) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE HAS TOLD SECRETARY OF LABOR
MARCELO CURTO THAT IT HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR HANDLING
LABOR RELATIONS AT LAJES BASE IN THE AZORES. CURTO IS TO BE
THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR. HE MAY, OR MAY NOT, MAKE AN ISSUE
OF LABOR/MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AT THE BASE AFTER HE BECOMES
MINISTER. IN ANY CASE, ISSUE IS NOW CLEARLY AN INTERANL ONE
WITHIN THE GOP BETWEEN THE AIR FORCE AND THE MINISTRY OF LABOR.
END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04960 221255Z

1. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LABOR CURTO SENT LETTER TO AMBASSADOR REQUESTING THAT COMUSFORAZ HANDLE ITS RELATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE NATIONAL EMPLOYEES DIRECTLY INSTEAD OF THROUGH INTERMEDIARY OF PORTUGUESE AIR ZONE COMMANDER (REF A). AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK MATTER UP WITH GENERAL VALENTE, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF (PERSONNEL) OF PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE (PAF). AS CONSEQUENCE, GENERAL MORAIS DA SILVA, CHIEF OF STAFF, PAF, SENT STIFF LETTER TO LABOR MINISTRY ON JULY 5, ASSERTING THE PAF'S POSITION THAT THE LABOR MINISTRY'S MEMORANDUM HAS NO LEGAL VALIDITY INASMUCH AS NO MINISTRY OF THE GOP HAS THE UNILATERAL RIGHT TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES CONTRADICTING THE TECHNICAL AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. COPY OF THIS LETTER WAS PROVIDED TO DEFATT BY GENERAL VALENTE.

2. IN A POINT BY POINT COMMENTARY ON THE LABOR MINISTRY MEMORANDUM, THE PAF LETTER STATES:

- THERE IS NO POINT IN MAKING AN ADDITIONAL ANNEX TO THE TECHNICAL AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME UNLESS, DURING THE COMING MONTHS, A BASIC ALTERATION IN THE OVERALL AGREEMENT IS NEGOTIATED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.
- THE COMMANDER OF THE AZORES AIR ZONE, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PAF -- THE LATTER AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOP - IS THE ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE PAF HAS NO DOUBT THAT THE USG WOULD REFUSE TO CONSIDER MODIFYING THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY COMUSFORAZ DEALS WITH LOCAL UNIONS THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF THE AIR ZONE.
- THE MATTER IS BEYOND THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LABOR AND WITHIN THE SOLE COMPETENCE OF THE AIR FORCE, WHICH WILL SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS CONCERNED.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM THE TEXT OF THE LETTER AND DEFATT'S CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL VALENTE THAT THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE CONSIDERS THE ACTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AS AN INTRUSION INTO AIR FORCE DOMAIN. CARLUCCI

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